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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the District

For the Year

1948

BY

M. L. SUTCLIFFE,
T.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

W. R. WHEELER,
SEVERN SIDE PRESS, NEWNHAM, GLOS

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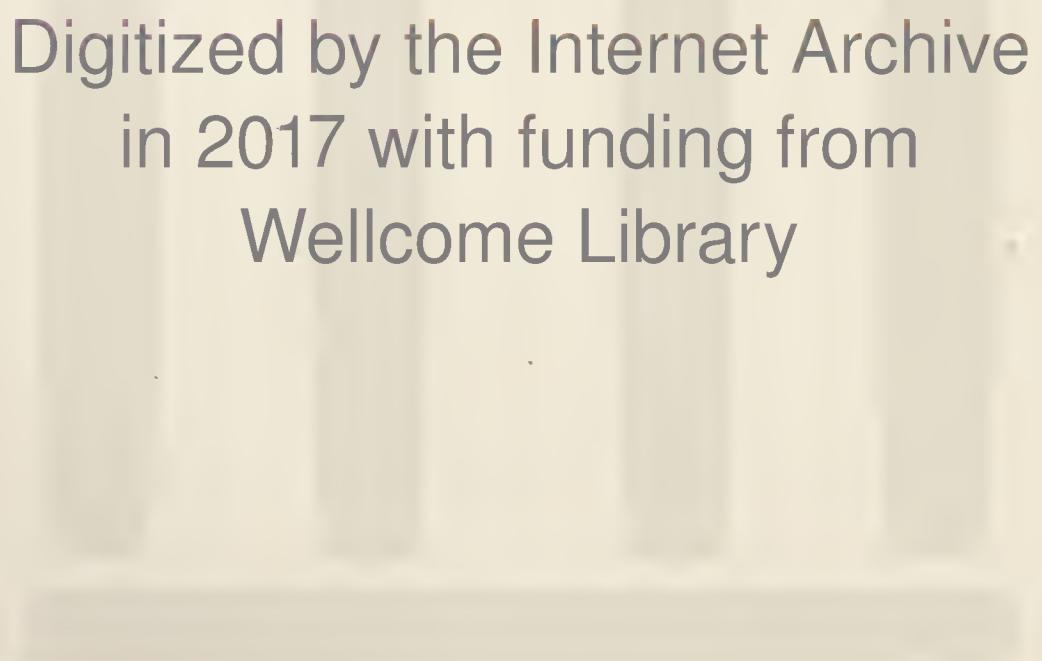
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Rural District Council of Newent

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit by Annual Report on the Hygiene Conditions and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1948.

It includes the reports of the Sanitary Inspector and is compiled to conform with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 ; Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, and it incorporates the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 dated 17th January, 1949.

In accordance with paragraph 10 of the above circular, the distribution of this Report is a wide one and includes :—

The Ministry of Health.

The County Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry of Food.

The Local Government Boundary Commission.

The Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Public Health Staff of the Authority.

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer of Health to Tewkesbury Borough, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural (Medical Officer of Health) Committee and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for the County of Gloucestershire.

H. S. JENKINSON, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., T.I.P.C., M.I.R.S., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. Inspector under Housing and Petroleum Acts and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

D. A. I. LAVERY, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Assistant Sanitary Inspector. (Commenced duties 1st January, 1948).

MISS M. C. DAVIS. Clerk (part time).

The Health of the District has remained good during the year. In the vital statistics it will be seen that both the birth and death rates were below that of the country as a whole. It is most satisfactory to note that for the second year running there have been no deaths of mothers in child-birth, and also to note the very low Infantile mortality rate, which is less than a quarter than that of England and Wales and is a record low figure for this District. These figures show the efficiency of the medical and nursing services available. As regards infectious disease there has been a slight reduction in the number of cases and there has been a very satisfactory reduction in the number of cases of tuberculosis. The percentage of children immunised against diphtheria also shows an improvement.

The provision of main water supplies is going on very well and as will be seen in the report, the Council is very progressive in this respect. The decision of the Council to inaugurate a system of refuse collection for the whole district is very satisfactory and this will start as soon as the necessary transport is delivered.

The Dymock sewerage scheme which was under consideration before the War, has now advanced very considerably and sanction has been obtained from the Ministry of Health.

The above are the satisfactory features of the report, but one must mention that there is one very unsatisfactory feature and that is in connection with housing. I have dealt with this in considerable detail, and in spite of the Council doing all it can to improve the position, there is no net progress in the most urgent need of the District.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Council for their co-operation and the support they give to Public Health recom-

mendations, and also to mention the assistance received from other members of the Council Staff, especially that of Mr. Jenkinson and Mr. Lavery whose large amount of work done in the District will be seen from the report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1949.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres), 48,845.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1948) 8,135.

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1948) according to rate books, 2,358.

Rateable Value (September 30th, 1948) £27,660.

Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1949), £120.

Industry in the District.

The District is largely agricultural and milk producing, as will be seen from the fact that there are 285 milk producers.

There are two sawmills at Newent and May Hill and three pumping stations for Gloucester Corporation and Malvern Urban District Water Undertakings.

Messrs. Henly's factory at Newent is working for the Ministry of Supply as an Auxiliary Army Workshop (repair of ex-W.D. vehicles), and on 31st December, 1948, was employing 120 people and could employ more if labour were available.

Adoptive Legislation in force in the District.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 Section 1 (adopted 7.4.38).

Byelaws.

New Buildings. Public Health Act, 1936 (adopted 1.10.40).

Vital Statistics.

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the District, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales.

A detailed list of the cause of death will be found in Table 27.

Table 1

Infantile Births and Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Combined
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total
Live Births	57	70	127	3	4	7	134
Still Births	—	1	1	—	1	1	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	—	1	1	—	—	—	1

Table 2.

Deaths.

Total Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	40	46	86
Deaths included in the above from :			
Measles (all ages)
Whooping Cough (all ages)
Diarrhoea under two years of age
Puerperal Sepsis
Other Maternal causes

Table 3.

Birth and Death Rates.

	Newent Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.4	17.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.246	0.42
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.57	
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	Not available	10.8
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	7.4	34
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live births	7.8	
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	Nil	Not available
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total births	Nil	1.02

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Laboratory Facilities.

These were fully dealt with in my Annual Report for 1947. There has been no change and arrangements in force are entirely satisfactory.

Hospitals.

This Council is only concerned with the hospital treatment of infectious disease cases.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Hospitals came under control of the South Western Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948, and from that date the cost of hospital treatment has been borne by a central fund and not by this Authority. Similarly, this Council is not now responsible for the payment of doctor's fees for infectious disease notifications.

The above changes affect the administrative side rather than the practical side, and no changes have occurred in the facilities available for hospital treatment, which are excellent.

Ambulance Facilities.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Ambulance Services were transferred to the County Council on 5th July, 1948. One ambulance is stationed at Newent (Gouldings Depot) and four full time drivers are employed.

In the case of infectious disease, the ambulances stationed at Over Hospital are used.

No difficulties under the change of administration have been experienced.

Nursing in the Home.

There are three District Nursing Associations in the District.

1—Newent Area (two nurses).

2—Dymock Area (one nurse).

3—Staunton Area (one nurse).

The whole District is covered by the above areas for Midwifery and General Nursing in the home; and in addition the District Nurses carry out School Medical Work, Health and Tuberculosis Visiting, etc.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are administered by the County Council, but particulars are given as a matter of interest. They are all held at the Clinic, Picklemarsh School, Newent.

SCHOOL CLINIC. Every Tuesday a.m. when a Doctor attends.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE. 1st and 3rd Thursday p.m. in the month, when a Doctor attends.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC. Every Thursday a.m. when orthopaedic sister attends. An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends as required.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. About every six months attended by Ophthalmic Specialist.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC. About every six months, attended by E.N.T. Specialist.

During the year an additional Infant Welfare Centre was started at Dymock, being held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday p.m., in the month.

Mortuary.

There has been no change in the mortuary which was not used during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supplies.

MAIN SUPPLIES.

1.—GLOUCESTER CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

Newent Town and the surrounding area are supplied mainly from the Corporation's pumping stations in the District, but the whole of the Corporation's supplies are linked together and if necessary water could be made available from their reservoir at Churchdown which is supplied from the Gloucester and Cheltenham Joint Water Board's purification works at Tewkesbury.

Samples from these sources are regularly analysed by the City Analyst and reports of those taken in the District are submitted to this Department.

Table 4 shows that these supplies are pure and satisfactory for human consumption although the local supplies are very hard. (Total hardness between 400 and 500).

In accordance with the Gloucester Corporation Water Act, 1945, the Corporation lays mains as requested by the Council, sanction being required by the County Council and the Ministry of Health for the purposes of "grants."

EXTENSIONS OF MAINS IN 1948.

Corse	...	...	4in.	1928 yards.
Dymock	...	...	9in.	1500 "
			6in.	3098 "
			4in.	309 "
Newent	...		9in.	1060 "
			6in.	42 "
			4in.	970 "
			3in.	330 "
Oxenhall	...	...	4in.	332 "
Pauntley	...		9in.	1286 "
			4in.	366 "
			3in.	482 "
Staunton	...	...	4in.	760 "
		Total		7 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles

EXTENSIONS AUTHORISED BY THE COUNCIL.

Corse	...	...	...	...	170 yards.
Dymock	...	...	...	...	4870 "
Kempley	...	...	...	...	3810 "
Newent	...	...	...	...	12500 "
Pauntley	...	...	...	...	2000 "
Redmarley	...	...	...	...	2250 "
Taynton	...	...	...	...	4150 "
Tibberton	...	...	...	...	1210 "
		Total	...	...	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The Council may congratulate themselves on these figures which show that the availability of main water supplies is increasing very satisfactorily ; the biggest advance being the provision of main water supplies to Dymock, the largest village in the District.

Following the increase of mains in the District a further 96 houses have connected up during the year and in addition a number of farms have also been provided with main water supplies.

Table 5 shows, for the information of the Council, the water mains in the District at the end of 1948.

2.—MALVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATERWORKS.

This authority supplies the parish of Bromsberrow and parts of the parishes of Dymock (Bromsberrow Heath) and Redmarley.

There were no extensions of mains during the year.

Table 4 shows that all water samples taken were satisfactory.

Water Shortage in the District.

During the year the 160ft. deep well serving the village of Redmarley fell very low and only a very limited quantity of water was available. Later, the winding apparatus completely failed and water had to be carted to the village for a period. An emergency supply was arranged to serve the village until the main extensions in this locality were carried out. The extension comprises 240 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. main taken from the private Malvern U.D.C. water supply to Hillfields and terminating in a stand pipe near the centre of the village. This work was completed in December, 1948.

Well Supplies.

These supplies are largely from shallow wells, although in some parts of the District they are of the deep type. They do not provide a pure water supply as will be seen from Table 4 which shows that only one sample out of 20 taken was satisfactory. In these cases householders are strongly recommended to boil their well supply water before using it for drinking purposes.

Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses of Water Supplies serving the District.

Table 4.

Source of Supply.	Total No. of Analyses.	Bacteriological.		Chemical.	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Gloucester Corporation (City Analyst.)	24	16	—	8	—
Malvern U.D.C. water- works (Works Analyst)	20	10	—	10	—
Wells, etc. ... (Council Analyst)	20	1	14	—	5

I have to acknowledge with thanks the reports on the Corporation and Malvern U.D. Water analyses which are sent to this Department by the courtesy of the City Engineer and the Malvern U.D. Water Engineer respectively.

Main Water Supplies in the District showing the Number of Houses and Population Served.

(These figures are provided in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 3/49).

Table 5.

Parish	Main Supply	No. of houses supplied	Pop.	Stand pipes (main)	No. of houses supplied	Pop.
Bromsberrow	Malvern U.D.C.	36	124	1	2	7
Corse	Glos. Corporation	22	76	—	—	—
Dymock	Malvern U.D.C.	32	110	6	35	120
Hartpury	Glos. Corporation	21	72	—	—	—
Kempley	Glos. Corporation	42	138	—	—	—
Newent	No main supply	—	—	—	—	—
Oxenhall	Newent Town	332	1142	9	28	96
Paunton	Glos. Corporation	103	354	—	—	—
Redmarley	Glos. Corporation	25	87	—	—	—
Rudford	Glos. Corporation	23	80	1	1	4
Staunton	Malvern U.D.C.	8	28	1	23	80
Taynton	Glos. Corporation	40	131	—	—	—
Tibberton	Glos. Corporation	20	69	—	—	—
Upleadon	Glos. Corporation	3	11	—	—	—
		27	93	—	—	—
		36	124	—	—	—
Total		770	2639	18	89	307

The above table shows that with the exception of Kempley Parish, to which a main supply has been authorised, all parishes have main supplies available.

For a sparsely populated rural area with only about one person per every 6 acres the fact that about one-third of the population have main water supplies may be considered quite satisfactory, and this figure will increase steadily as the proposed extensions of mains are carried out.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As in most rural districts, sewage disposal is mostly on the "conservancy system," householders being responsible for their own sewage disposal.

Newent Town.

The Council's three sewage disposal works remain unchanged. During the year investigations in conjunction with the County Council were carried out with regard to dealing with road surface water. In certain lengths of the sewer from Leewall Street to the Cleeve Lane Sewage Works, owing to the fact that the joints were

made with clay, it was found that tree roots had grown into the sewer, thus obstructing free flow. The clearing of this sewer was in hand at the end of 1948.

FLOODING.—No complaints were received during the year and the County Land Drainage Department carried out regular cleansing of Peacocks Brook.

Dymock Village.

A sewage disposal scheme is very urgent and has become even more urgent recently as during the year, main water supplies have been provided for the village.

The Ministry of Health held a local Public Inquiry on 15th December, 1948, as to the need for the Council's scheme and also to consider giving sanction to borrow the money required ; which was now estimated by the Consulting Engineer to be about £9,800. Sanction for the Scheme was given by the Ministry in February, 1949.

Redmarley Village.

A few houses are connected to a small sewer which discharges into an adjacent ditch. During the year it was necessary to clean this ditch out.

Drainage Works.

During the year there were 38 new works completed and extensions and improvements carried out to 10 systems. They were all passed as satisfactory by this Department.

Latrine Accommodation.

The great majority of latrines in the District are of the bucket or privy type. During the year 12 of these were converted to water-closets.

Public Lavatories.

There is one public convenience in Newent Town, which is maintained by one of the Council's employees.

There is a definite need for public lavatories at Dymock, but at present, sewage disposal is the difficulty.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Collection.

House refuse is removed twice weekly in the Newent Town Lighting area at a contract price of £163 16s. 0d. per annum.

Towards the end of the year the Surveyor re-submitted to the Council a scheme for scavenging the whole District. The scheme was agreed to by the Council and tenders have been advertised for a Bedford "Eagle" refuse lorry with a capacity of 10 cubic yards. It is hoped to put the scheme into operation in 1949.

Action taken to check pollution of rivers and streams.

No action was taken during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

A summary of the work carried out in the Public Health Department is tabulated below :—

Table 6.

	No. of Inspections	Notices served.		Defects remedied after notice.	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling houses ...	957	175	1	191	—
Cow Sheds and Dairies	320	56	—	50	—
Factories, etc. ...	78	7	—	5	—
Bakehouses ...	24	8	—	6	—
Food Premises ...	34	16	—	4	—
Slaughterhouses ...	Nil.	None in use since 1939			
Water Supplies ...	248	47	—	34	3
Drainage and Sewerage	223	6	—	5	—
Infectious Disease ...	12	Disinfection carried out in all cases			
Miscellaneous ...	1140	27	—	18	—
Total ...	3036	342	1	263	3

The total number of inspections at 3036 compares very favourably with the figure of 1413 in 1947. The advantage of another Sanitary Inspector is therefore very obvious and is undoubtedly to the benefit of the District.

Shops Acts, 1912-1945.

Most of the provisions of these Acts are administered by the County Council. No action during the year was taken by this Department.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Outworkers.

One out-worker was notified as residing in the District ; one visit of inspection was made and conditions were satisfactory.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Acts, 1928-1936.

25 licences have been issued during the year for the storage of petroleum, and three for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

Camping Sites.

There are 7 licensed camping sites in the District (Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936). They have all been inspected and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, 1877-1925.

There is no navigable canal in the District.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary, and no complaints have been received during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the District, but the River Leadon and a few streams are used for bathing, mostly by children. The prevention of sewage pollution of these streams is therefore a matter of considerable importance.

Disinfestation (Bed Bugs), etc.

One farm house was found to be badly infested with bed bugs and intensive action with D.D.T. was taken with good results.

Rodent Control.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The County Pests Department has carried out the work of disinfestation on behalf of the Council.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

SEWER TREATMENTS. Maintenance treatments were carried out in January and July and slight infestations were found to exist.

SURFACE TREATMENTS. 19.

SCHOOLS.

During the year there has been little or no change in the condition of the elementary schools in the District. Your Medical Officer of Health, as Assistant County Medical Officer carries out the medical inspection of all the elementary school children in the District, and submits sanitary reports on the school buildings to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Table 7 shows the water supplies and sanitary accommodation in schools and it is satisfactory to note that all the schools except

one, either have main water or main water is available, and in these latter, this Department has taken action for the schools to be connected up.

The condition as regards latrines is not quite so satisfactory as only 4 schools have W.C.'s and the other 7 schools are dependant on conservancy methods. It is difficult to see how conditions can be improved, however, as the cost of providing individual sewage disposal systems would, at the present time at least, be excessive.

Table 7. Water Supplies and Sanitary Accommodation in Schools.

School.	Water Supply	Remarks on Water Supply.					Type of Latrine.
Bromsberrow	Main	Malvern U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	Bucket
Corse	Well	Unsatisfactory.	Main supply available	...	...	...	Bucket
Dymock	Well	Unsatisfactory.	Main supply available	..	...	...	W.C.'s
Haffield	Main	Malvern U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	Privy
Hartpury	Main	Gloucester Corporation	...	...	...	...	Bucket
Newent	Main	Gloucester Corporation	...	...	...	...	W.C.'s
Pauntley	Main	Gloucester Corporation	...	...	...	...	Bucket
Redmarley (Lowbands)	Well	Unsatisfactory				...	Earth Closet
Staunton	Well	Unsatisfactory.	Main supply available	...	...	...
Tibberton	Main	Gloucester Corporation	...	...	...	...	Bucket
Upleadon	Main	Gloucester Corporation	...	...	...	...	W.C.'s
							W.C.'s

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

By the Local Authority	...	...	24
By other Local Authorities	...	...	Nil.
By the Land Settlement Association			Nil.
By private enterprise	...	...	6
			—
Total	...	...	30

The 24 Council houses erected during the year were located as follows :

Bran Green	...	...	4	(Swedish Timber (2 type D, and 2 type A))
Hallwood Green	...	...	6	(Airey Rural type).
Hartpury	...	...	6	(Airey Rural type).
Newent Town	...	...	8	Traditional.

During 1948 a beginning was made on the erection of the following houses which were part of our 1947 programme, but which owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Council were unfortunately delayed.

Bromsberrow	...	...	4	Traditional.
Highleadon	...	...	4	Traditional.
Kempley	...	...	4	Traditional.
Staunton	...	...	4	Traditional.
Dymock (Ann Cams)	...	...	2	Traditional.

The Council's programme for 1949, which is of course subject to any alterations or amendments of the Ministry of Health allotments is as follows :

Newent town	...	...	8	Traditional.
Dymock (Kempley Road)			4	Traditional.
Redmarley	...	...	4	Traditional.

The figure of 30 new houses erected during the year is a matter for satisfaction, and is the highest for a good many years. It is, however, not of much value giving this figure unless it is correlated with other housing information which we possess.

We must at least take into consideration two other figures, i.e. the Registrar-General's estimate of population and the number of available houses, while in addition we can consider comparative figures for England and Wales, and the number of houses in the District unfit for habitation or overcrowded.

From the first two figures we get the following results :.

Year	Estimated Population.	No. of houses on rate books	No. of occupants per 100 houses.
1945	7,685	2,300	334
1946	7,827	2,306	339
1947	7,766	2,319	336
1948	8,135	2,358	344

It must be admitted that these figures, shewing that housing accommodation in the District is now worse than it was at the end of the War, are very depressing.

The fact that this Council locally, and the Ministry of Health nationally are unable to build as many houses as they wish, shews the extreme gravity of the situation.

Until the law of supply and demand, which has been in abeyance since 1939, is again allowed to operate freely, without controls and restrictions, there seems no solution to the housing problem.

In comparing England and Wales with this District as regards the number of houses erected since the war, we get the following figures :

In England and Wales (end of war to 31.12.48) one house (permanent or temporary) has been erected for about every 85 of the population, while in this District for the same period the Council have only been permitted to erect or allow to be erected 48 houses or one house for every 169 of the population. In considering these figures, one must of course remember that this District did not suffer from bomb damage during the war, and also that, in recent years, housing priority has been given to industrial, especially mining, areas. Even so, our allocation of new housing cannot be considered generous, and it is to be hoped that the urgent need for improved housing in agricultural areas will be given more priority by the Ministry in the future.

The need for new housing is very great and may be considered under the following headings :

- i. To accommodate the yearly increase in population. The average increase in population in the last 3 years has been 150 persons a year. This alone, with an average population of 3.4 persons per house requires 44 new houses a year.
- ii. To accommodate families living in totally unfit houses. There were over 200 of these houses when the Rural Housing Survey was carried out in 1945/46, and this number increases year by year.
- iii. To accommodate families living in overcrowded conditions. This figure is about 50 but includes some families living in unfit houses (ii above).
- iv. To provide separate living accommodation for every family.

It will be realised that only after we have built our 44 houses a year to cater for the yearly increase in population, can new housing be used to rehouse families living in unfit houses, etc. That we have not yet reached this stage is shown by the fact that since the war, it has not been possible to demolish any unfit houses.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 767 |
| (ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 957 |

(b) (i)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 etc.	571
(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	750
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. (This No. is in addition to those previously reported).	16
(d)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	175

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	191
-----	--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	1
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil.
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138 and the Water Act, 1945, Section 30.	
(i)	Number of houses in which a main water supply was provided after service of formal notices.	
(a)	By Owners	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	3
(d)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil.
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order.	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

It has not been possible to abate overcrowding in the District to any extent during the year although one or two families have been rehoused. Until permission for the erection of many more houses is given by the Ministry of Health it is impossible to see any solution to this very serious problem.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

This section deals with the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action has been taken by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies.

A large amount of milk is produced in the District, the bulk being taken by wholesalers where it is either consumed outside the District or processed at Messrs. Cadbury's factory at Frampton-on-Severn. This factory, which is under the control of the Ministry of Food has a maximum capacity of 50,000 gallons of milk per day and during 1948 the average amount dealt with was 23,000 gallons of which quite a considerable proportion came from this District.

Milk Producers in the District.

Table 8 shows the number of milk producers in the District classified according to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946. Figures for the previous two years are given for comparison.

Table 8.

		1946	1947	1948
Non-Designated Milk	...	230	238	238
Accredited Milk	...	12	11	9
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...			
(a) From Attested herds	...	17	17	16
(b) From non-Attested herds		11	13	22
Pasteurised Milk	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	...	270	279	285

It is satisfactory to note an increase in T.T. producers, but the number of non-designated producers is still far too high, and will become a serious matter when the new proposed legislation with regard to milk supplies comes into force. A brief explanation of the proposed new legislation is given below. In effect, it brings the standard of milk permitted for human consumption up to the

standard already required in milk which is used for the feeding of calves in Attested Herds. If such precautions are necessary in the rearing of calves, they must surely be regarded as equally necessary in the case of children.

Brief Report on the present and proposed legislation in connection with the Production and Distribution of Milk.

PRESENT POSITION REGARDING MILK PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Milk production and distribution is at present regulated principally by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943, mainly administered by District Councils, and the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946, administered by County Councils.

Under these provisions District Councils are concerned with the production, treatment (e.g. pasteurisation) and distribution of non-designated milk and the treatment and distribution of designated milk. County Councils are concerned with the production of T.T. and accredited milk.

The Special Designations at present in use are :

Tuberculin Tested.

Tuberculin Tested (Certified), i.e. bottled at place of production.

Accredited.

Pasteurised.

FUTURE POSITION.

The Foods and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act., 1944, is expected to come into operation during 1949. Briefly it transfers from County and County District Councils their powers regarding milk production to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and provides for the setting up of a Central Committee and of County Committees to keep under review the operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Local Authorities therefore lose all control over milk production except in the investigation of cases of infectious disease, but retain certain powers in connection with treatment and distribution.

A point worthy of note is that whereas Local Authorities have no power to cancel the registration of a milk producer who is not a retailer, under the new Regulations the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has power to cancel the registration of a milk producer (put him completely out of business) for non-compliance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) BILL.

This proposes that no application for a licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested received after 30th September, 1950 will be considered unless the herd is Attested. Existing Tuberculin Tested Licences will be terminated on September 30th, 1952 if the herd has not by that time become Attested.

The designation "Accredited" will become obsolete.

Initially the Regulations will apply to specified areas only, but ultimately, from the 1st October, 1954, the only raw milk that can be sold under a special designation in England and Wales will be T.T. milk from Attested herds, furthermore it will be compulsory for all milk sold by retail to be designated, i.e. T.T. Attested or Pasteurised.

The Minister can instal and operate heat-treatment plant and can arrange for Local Authorities to do so.

This Bill sounds the death-knell of many small producer-retailers, who, unless they have provided expensive plant or have Attested herds, will be unable to continue in business at the end of the five year period.

Milk Sampling.

SCHOOL MILKS.

41 samples were taken by the County Council and 5 were unsatisfactory.

DESIGNATED AND NON-DESIGNATED MILKS.

13 samples from retailers were taken by this Department and 7 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically. This figure is much too high.

Anthrax Order, 1938. Foot and Mouth Disease.

There were no confirmed or suspected cases during the year.

MEAT.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The 6 slaughter-houses in the District have not been regularly used since 1939 when slaughtering for the District was centralised in Gloucester.

During the year 12 slaughtermen's licences were issued by the Council.

Slaughtering of Home-fattened pigs.

During the year 916 pigs were killed in the District for home consumption, and two sides were sold to a bacon factory. This is of course a very valuable source of bacon and with the bacon ration at

1 oz. per person per week, is a year's ration for about 55,000 people. It indicates how very valuable to the country is this "spare time" pig keeping.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Transport and Handling of Meat.

No complaints have been received during the year and there has been an improvement in the type of vehicle used and also in equipment.

The Sanitary Inspector regularly sees the vehicle used and it is clean and well kept.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that articles of food are unfit for human consumption.

Table 9 shows the articles of food condemned during the year.

Table 9.

Article	Non-Preserved.	Preserved or Tinned.
Meat	191 lbs.	9 tins.
Fish	5½ stone	10 tins
Milk	—	21 tins
Eggs (English)	33 dozen	—
Eggs (Imported)	5 doz.	—
Flour and Cereals	1 cwt. 92 lbs.	—
Jam	—	6 tins
Vegetables	—	21 tins
Fruit	25 lbs.	12 tins
Soup	—	2 tins
Pickles	—	1 jar

It will be seen that the total weight of food stuffs condemned was a small amount compared with the total consumption of food in the District.

Ice Cream.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947 and 1948.

During the year no retailers have manufactured their own ice cream. There are 4 licensed retailers in the District all of whom purchase ice cream from wholesalers whose factories lie outside the District. The above regulations, owing to the cost of the apparatus required, have undoubtedly reduced the number of small local manufacturer-retailers.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses at the following places are registered with the Ministry of Food :—

Broad Street, Newent ... (2)	Dymock (1)
High Street, Newent ... (1)	Wyndbrook, Redmarley (1)
Gloucester Street, Newent (1)	Cross Hands, Corse ... (1)
	Corse End, Hartpury (1)

On the whole, the majority are well kept, but in two cases major structural repairs are required.

Adulteration.

The relevant Sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are administered by the County Council.

Outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

During the year, no notifications of cases of food poisoning were received.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Table 10.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number of premises in Register	Number of inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s	24	36	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Sec. 7 applies :				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Others ...	26	24	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excl. outworkers) ..	9	18	—	—
Total	59	78	—	—

Table 11.

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases where defects were found.			Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred	
			to H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness(S.1)	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp.(S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate vent. (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	—	—	—
Latrines (S.7)	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) defective	—	—	—	—
(c) not sep. for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including Homework)	1	1	—	—
Total	7	5	—	—

Table 12.**Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).**

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No.out-workers in Aug. list as reqd.	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No.prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Cases of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making)	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Disease.

Table 22 shows the incidence of notifiable Infectious diseases during the year divided into Parishes and age-groups. The total number of cases was 66 compared with 71 in 1947.

Diphtheria and Immunisation.

The statistics submitted to the Ministry of Health by this Department are fully dealt with in Tables 14 to 17. No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year.

Small Pox and Typhoid.

No contacts of these diseases were notified during the year as coming into this District.

Infantile Paralysis.

There were fortunately no cases during the year, compared with 4 in 1947.

Infectious Disease in Elementary Schools.

Table 13 shows schools in which cases of infectious disease occurred in 1948. It will be seen that mumps was prevalent during the year, these being 92 cases compared with none in 1947.

Table 13.

School	Average No. on Register	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Diphtheria
Bromsberrow	17	—	—	4	1	1	—
Corse	49	—	3	—	—	1	—
Dymock	160	1	7	2	—	33	—
Haffield	22	—	2	4	—	—	—
Hartpury	69	—	—	—	—	40	—
Lowbands	28	—	8	—	—	7	—
Picklenash	382	4	—	1	1	9	1
Paunton	45	—	—	—	14	—	—
Tibberton	41	—	—	1	12	—	—
Upleadon	32	—	3	—	1	1	—
Total		5	23	12	29	92	1

Following the recommendations of the Joint Memorandum issued by the Ministries of Health and Education, it was not considered necessary to close any schools because of Infectious Disease.

Disinfection of Premises following Infectious Disease.

The policy of the Council, inaugurated in March 1947, to issue free soap for cleansing purposes in cases of major infectious disease has been continued during the year, and is much appreciated.

Premises are also sprayed with disinfectant as a routine measure.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Records are kept by this Department of all children in the District who have been immunised, and the returns shewn in Tables 14-17 are submitted to the Ministry of Health and County Medical Officer of Health.

Table 14. Child Population immunised during 1948.

Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation during 1948	Age at date of final injection.		Total under 15 years
	0-5 years	5-14 years	
During half-year ending 30.6.48 ...	59	4	63
During half-year ending 31.12.48 ...	32	2	34
TOTAL	91	6	97

**Table 15. Child Population receiving a maintenance dose during 1948
(i.e., a re-inforcing dose a few years after the primary im-
munisation).**

During half-year ending 30.6.48 ...	...	...	45
During half year ending 31.12.48 ...	...	...	41
Total ... ...	...	...	86

Table 16. Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Children aged 0-14 years immunised up to 31st December, 1948.

Age 31.12.48 i.e. born in year	0 +	1 +	2 +	3 +	4 +	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
No. Immunised ...	—	53	67	56	82	516	576	1350
Est. Mid-year pop. 48		693			1179			1872
Percentage Immunised		37.2%			92.6%			72.1%

**Table 17. Diphtheria notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation
(Children under 15 years only).**

Notifications.		Deaths.	
Cases notified	Cases Immunised	Immunised	Not Immunised
—	—	—	—

Table 18. Relation of Immunisation to the severity of Diphtheria Cases.

Civilian cases only. (All ages).	No. of Cases.	Severity of Disease.					
		V. Mild.	Mild.	Mod.	Severe	V. Severe.	Died.
(a) Immunised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Not Immunised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 19.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Deaths in 1948.

Ages	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 +	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 +	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
25 +	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
35 +	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 +	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age N.K.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total	...	3	3	1	1	2	2	...

Table 20. Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register as at 31st December for the last three years.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Per 1000 Population
	M	F	M	F		
1946	18	9	15	6	48	6.1
1947	17	6	13	5	41	5.3
1948	12	7	13	2	34	4.2

Table 21. Number of New Cases and Deaths in the last three years.

Year	NEW CASES				Total	DEATHS				Total		
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary				
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F			
1946	3	5	3	4	15	1	2	2	2	7		
1947	3	—	1	2	6	1	—	—	2	3		
1948	3	3	1	1	8	2	2	—	—	4		

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
 Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172).
 No action was necessary under the above Regulations and Act.

Table 22. Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Number of Cases by Age Groups.

Table 23.**CAUSES OF DEATH 1948**

(Classified according to the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes).

CAUSES OF DEATH					Male	Female
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	...	2	2	—
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
10. Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	...	...	...	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav. and Oesoph. M uterus F	...	...	...	2	1	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2	—	—
15. Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	2	7	—
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	2	2	—
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	6	5	—
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	9	19	—
20. Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	5	4	—
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	1	—
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1	—
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	—	—
27. Other digestive disorders	...	...	...	2	—	—
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	1	—	—
29. Puerperal and post-abort. : sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
31. Premature births	...	...	...	—	—	—
32. Con. : Mal. : birth inj. : infantile diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
33. Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
34. Road traffic accident	...	...	...	2	—	—
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	1	—
36. All other causes	...	...	...	2	3	—
TOTAL					40	46

